

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

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SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR/HONDURAS BORDER DISPUTE: OAS OBSERVERS

SUBJECT: EL SALVADOR-HONDURAS BORDER DISPUTE: OAS OBSERVERS

REF: 1) STATE 191 037, 2) SAN SALVADOR 3517 (NOTAL)

3) TEGUCIGALPA 3783 (NOTAL)

1. USG RESPONDED TO OAS DECISION TO SEND MILITARY
OBSERVERS TO DISPUTED BORDER AREA BY SUPPLYING THREE
OFFICERS TO OBSERVER TEAM COMMANDED BY ARGENTINE MAJOR
GENERAL LUIS MARIA MIRO.
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2. US HAS ALSO PROVIDED ONE FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT AND FOUR HUEY HELICOPTERS TO OAS, WHICH WILL COVER ALL EXPENSES. WHILE WE ARE NOT COMMITTED TO ANY OTHER ACTION OUR POSITION IS THAT, WE WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO REASONABLE REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT FROM THE OAS.

3. OAS COORDINATOR HAS ADVISED US THAT GEN. MIRO HAS ESTABLISHED A COMMAND STRUCTURE CONSISTING OF CDR. RICARDO PENA (ARGENTINA) IN HONDURAN SECTOR; COL. JOSE ANTONIO BARBOSA DE MORAES (BRAZIL) IN THE SALVADORAN SECTOR. IN AN EFFORT TO AVOID CRITICISM FROM EITHER SIDE, GEN. MIRO ESTABLISHED A FIXED HEADQUARTERS FOR HIMSELF AND CONTINUES TRAVELING BETWEEN TEGUCIGALPA AND EL SALVADOR. MIRO MET

WITH PRESIDENTS OF BOTH EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS WHILE IN THEIR CAPITALS.

4. USOAS LEARNED THAT GEN. MIRO, 15 MILITARY OBSERVERS, HONDURAN AND SALVADORAN CHIEFS OF STAFF AND NICARAGUAN OFFICIALS MET SUNDAY, AUGUST 8 IN MANAGUA TO DISCUSS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR REDUCING TENSION ALONG DISPUTED FRONTIER. MEETING WAS RECESSED AT REQUEST OF HONDURAS.

5. TWENTY-SIX MILITARY OBSERVERS (14 IN EL SALVADOR; 12 IN HONDURAS) ARE PRESENT IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES, AND SOME OF OBSERVERS PROBABLY HAVE REACHED FRONTIER ZONE.

6. WE ARE UNABLE TO PREDICT OUTCOME OF MANAGUA MEETINGS NOR LENGTH OF TIME NECESSARY FOR MILITARY OBSERVERS TO REMAIN IN BORDER AREA. HOWEVER, OUR ESTIMATE IS THAT OAS MILITARY OBSERVER MISSION WILL LAST FOR ONE MONTH. ROBINSON

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